

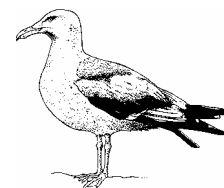


COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM  
7601 E. Imperial Highway, Building 500, Suite 105, Downey, CA 90242  
Tel. 562-401-7088 Fax 562-401-7112  
[www.lapublichealth.org/vet](http://www.lapublichealth.org/vet)

## How to Collect Dead Birds for Disease Testing

Thank you for helping us to monitor Los Angeles County for West Nile Virus and Avian Influenza. Your help is needed and appreciated. Never touch a dead bird with your bare hands. Wash your hands well after handling any dead bird.

1. **Report all dead birds in Los Angeles County.** Please report all dead birds of all types. Not all dead birds can be tested for disease, but all reports are helpful. Please report the location, date, number of dead birds, and type of birds.
2. **Only freshly dead, adult birds can be tested.** Tests may be conducted on adult birds that have been dead a short time (24 hours or less), and that are not rotten or covered with ants. Baby birds will not be tested. In general, West Nile Virus tests are run on all birds that are collected. Avian Influenza testing is run only on waterbirds (ducks, geese, herons, seagulls, etc) or in cases where there is a cluster of dead birds (three or more) of any type.
3. **How to prepare bird for testing.** *Only birds that have been placed in a plastic bag and put in a safe place can be collected for testing.* Do not touch the dead bird with your bare hands. Use disposable gloves or place a plastic bag (without holes) over your hand. Turn the bag inside out over the bird and then tie the bag closed. If possible, place a bag of ice on top of the bird (to preserve it) and then put both the bagged bird and bag of ice in a third plastic bag. If possible, please place a note on the outer bag saying: "FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT." Place the bagged bird in a location where it can be seen from the street (such as on a porch or in a yard) and let us know in your report where our department can find it. Wash your hands well with soap and water right after handling the bird.



Report dead birds to:  
**877-747-2243**  
or online  
[lapublichealth.org/vet/index.htm](http://lapublichealth.org/vet/index.htm)

